



CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

A Missional Movement

The church has a mission, it always has. We are commissioned to go...this July the final class of Leadership Fellows was about mission. Our speaker, Denise Honeycutt, once the Executive Director of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) reminded us that mission is not a program of the church but the purpose of the church, to be in mission locally and globally for the sake of the gospel message. The gospel of Mark, our primary gospel this lectionary year, begins with the gospel message, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Mark continues in verse 14, “¹⁴..., Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” We, as Christ’s disciples are now the bearers of this good news. We are to share in the kingdom work that began with Christ. The good news is that Christ came for the salvation of the world. Repent and believe.

Yes we are to tell the story of Christ’s life, death and resurrection and what that means for the individual. Yes we are to speak of repentance, of turning away from sin, from worldly temptations and turn towards God’s grace and mercy. Yes we are, like God, to be working for good in the world all day long. Our mission begins with building relationships with our neighbors, and sometimes with our enemies. In families broken by circumstances, it can mean a rebuilding. We cannot do this work without God’s love, Christ’s amazing grace, and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

How do we begin? We start with recognizing that the small things we do are as much kingdom work as the extraordinary things. Mother Teresa once said, “Do ordinary things with extraordinary love.” When we do, people will have a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.

As we head into fall, we will be taking new missional steps. Small groups will be forming around the table in homes in our community. These small groups will share a meal, share some life stories, and talk of the life giving love of God, his son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. These tables will include friends and neighbors who may not know Jesus. One or two at the table attend Plank Chapel, but the others who will be invited to share in the fellowship and community may have fallen away from attending any church. If you want to know more about table groups and friends, just reach out to me and we can talk.

Some choose to serve outside the walls of the church and some serve within the walls of the church. This is the season of nominating people to serve. The committees and teams fit together so that the church can be missional in the world. Consider with me our missional work this summer in Compassion Camp. Our financial stewardship has provided funds for the curriculum, the snacks, craft items and paper products. Our presence on social media has given us a platform to share the camp with others. Our teams: Outward Witness and Inward Formation have provided our companions for our campers. Trustees maintain the building so that camp has a place for the campers to attend. Our other missional outreach this summer was Rebuilding Hope. How did the church provide for this? Volunteers had meals through donations and Outward Witness. We gathered volunteers from the pews and from the community.

November 6, yes, the Saturday after the UMM’s BBQ we have our annual Charge Conference. In years past it was a celebration of the missional work of our church in the world. In recent years it has felt like an exercise in repetition. This year we will be in our Fellowship Hall and our District Superintendent will be “zooming in.” My prayer is that we allow this time together to be worship filled and share with Rev. Ismael Ruiz-Millan our story.

All day long, God is at work for good in the world and invites us to join in that work. Look for where you are being called or see how you are working with God for good in the world right where you are now, you may be surprised how God is using you.

Praying with you,
Pastor Carolyn

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)



Madison Long

I have hope for the future of God’s church. God’s church is not a singular place or space, it is not just in the United States or only in warm comfortable churches. God’s church is in the hospital beds and hunger. God’s church reigns even when buildings fall and ideals collapse. Jesus Christ declared “I will build my church” thus pointing to a church that will not fall or be destroyed. This is a spiritual church, a realm above understanding that touches the least of these. So, if this church is everywhere and not confined to a particular location, why are we so caught up in our buildings? Is it because of the family history? Seeing loved ones through the ages sing, teach, and love in a church can make an impact. Or is it because of control? As the world changes, church buildings mostly stay the same. Same smells, room decor, and even kitchen appliances.



There are many wonderful reasons to love Church buildings, but I often wonder why we treat a man-made church better than we do people. We will put a roof on the Church and put effort into how it looks but not make a new guests feel welcome. We will make the church look welcoming but not be hospitable. We have reduced Christianity to bad behaviors versus good, and who is in and who’s out. But even in this I have hope for the church. I have hope because I’ve seen people change. I have seen people put their opinions aside to love thy neighbor. I have seen churches come together to help the poor even when the people are addicted or

didn’t vote the same way. It just takes one moment, one moment of compassion. This compassion is the way the church grows because it is when we are truly following what God wants us to do. People gravitate towards kindness, especially in a world filled with so much shame and suffering. So, I urge you every day to do something kind for another and then just maybe the world will be a better place.



SUNDAY SCHOOL



This summer has really flown by. Things change and some stay the same.

We are now meeting in the Willing Workers Class each Sunday morning at 10:00. Since Tim will be out recovering, Madison will be

teaching the class July 25 and August 1.

Since we are now meeting in person, I will not be sending out the written Sunday School lesson. I have enjoyed doing this and hope you have gotten something out of the lesson. It has really been a learning experience for me. I appreciate those who have supported me. Donald Rose

August (Unit 3) - The 5 Stages of Job

August 1 - Worship: Job 1:8-20

August 8 - Resignation: Job 1:21-22, 2:7-10

August 15 - Protest: Job 19:1-6, 13-19

August 22 - Angry Despair: Job 30:16-23

August 29 - Acceptance: Job 40:1-5, 41:1-10, 42:1-6

Spiritual Practices: Lament

Keeping Holy Time Bible Study

This Thursday morning group meets to study scriptures, share stories, pray for those in need, and often ends up laughing at something in the Bible. This month we will be in the book of Acts. Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays. We each bring our Bibles. A good study Bible is also a great tool as we read ahead before we jump in at 10:00 a.m. We open our time together praying for the community and end each session in prayer. On good weather days, bring your lawn chair - we will be out in the pavilion.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY



Sunday, August 15 we will have our Back to School offering. Some ideas: No. 2 pencils, crayons (8 pack), erasers, wide rule notebook paper, pocket folders, backpacks, hand sanitizer, composition books (wide rule), blunt tip scissors, glue sticks, washable markers, pencil boxes or pouches (cloth). **Appreciated Supplies:** dry eraser markers, gallon Ziploc bags, lysol wipes, boxes of facial tissue, copy paper, headphones, paper towels

Kittrell Community Watch

We will resume Community Watch meetings this month. We will be meeting on the fourth Thursday of odd months now. Note the time change. Meetings will be an hour earlier than last year. Please help spread the word and send me email addresses of anyone I should notify of future meetings. Also, recall we have a web site: KittrellCommunityWatch.com. Contact me if you have recommendations for the web site.

The Kittrell Community Watch will hold their first in-person meeting since Covid 19, Thursday, July 29 at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall of the Union Chapel United Methodist Church, 6535 Raleigh Road, Kittrell, NC.

Guest speaker will be David Cooper, Transportation Director of Vance County Schools. His duties include route planning, school bus safety, bus driver supervisor, and maintenance of a fleet of over 100 school and activity buses. Vance County Schools serves over 5,000 students in PreK-13 (early college) and a large number of students ride the buses.

All are welcome even if you reside outside the Kittrell area. Light refreshments will be served and a drawing for door prizes will be held.

Edward Woodlief, President
Kittrell Community Watch 252- 767-4044



Feeding the Community

Cokesbury UMC Food Pantry

- Wednesday evenings from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Once a month only - August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15

- In the month of August COVID-19 vaccines will be offered (ages 12 and up) Second dose will be given on September 15.
 - NOT JUST FOR FOOD PANTRY RECIPIENTS

**Cokesbury Food Pantry Sundays
1st Sunday of the month
Nonperishable Goods**

**From our Finance
Chairperson: Mac Wilson**



Your continued support of the ministries of Plank Chapel United Methodist Church are greatly appreciated. Thank you for what you have done and as you are able may continue to do. You are more than welcome to drop offering at the house or mail it to Plank Chapel, c/o Financial Secretary, Mrs. Judy Wilson, 3969 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell, NC 27544.

From our Treasurer: The Treasurer reminds Plank Chapel leaders that church financial data is available online. COVID 19 may have precluded periodic church leadership meetings but a current financial report is always available to all church members. Contact Pastor Carolyn or Scott Ritchey for login credentials.

COVID-19 and Variants: Prayerfully consider the habits we have learned: washing hands, sanitizer, safe distance, masking, and staying home when not feeling well

Rebuilding Hope

Thank you for serving with Rebuilding Hope Inc. By giving of your time and reaching out to meet a need in our community, you have touched many lives with the love of Christ.

*Sincerely,
Mac Wilson*

**August Change Fund - Missionary -
Melba McCallum #S-00195
Partners in Ministry**



Dr. Melba McCallum, Executive Director

Partners In Ministry was born from a vision of service by Dr. Melba McCallum, a Deaconess with the United Methodist Church. Recognizing the need to connect many of the local churches with individuals and families to help address the issues of poverty in her community, Dr. McCallum had a vision. Partners In Ministry was created in her home living room in 2007. Now, Partners In Ministry is a growing and thriving ministry that serves Richmond, Robeson, and Scotland Counties. Schedule a tour of our facility and learn how you can volunteer and make a difference.

<https://pim-nc.org>



Preparing for Charge Conference

Committees to begin their work of telling our story and preparing for our future.

- PPRC meets Aug 1st
- Finance Committee - to be scheduled (TBS)
- Nominations and Leadership Development - TBS
- Trustees - TBS
- Church Council meets September 26
- Reports due in October 25th



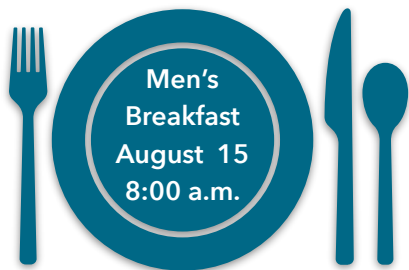
Community Prayers

For... Mike Hicks, Tim Smith, Ruth Hailey, David Driver, Marvin Daniel, John Allen, Natasha Aiken, Arvelle Abbott, Alice and Ted Finch, Martha Rowland, Charlotte Lalas, Tilly Hughes, Freddie McGhee, Faye Young

- For... healing and reconciliation
- For... those facing medical procedures
- For... those grieving
- For... those without food, jobs, shelter
- For... the lost and afraid
- For... Plank Chapel
- For... God's church
- For... Our local cities and counties
- For... Our state
- For... Our military, families, and veterans
- For... all in harms way
- For... Our nation
- For... God's world




United Methodist Women to meet Sunday
August 8th at 3:00 p.m.
 It has been a long while - new to UMW - come and join us!



Breakfast, a devotion,
 and BBQ planning.
 Join us Sunday Morning!

Virtual Plank Chapel Continues
 Live streaming of the 11:00 Sunday service is on Facebook. Go online to: [facebook.com/plankchapelUMC](https://www.facebook.com/plankchapelUMC) about 10:55
 Our website: <http://www.plankchapel.org> is one of the easiest ways to connect. If you are still having trouble contact Scott Ritchey or Pastor Carolyn for assistance.

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM PPRC Meeting 	2	3	4	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 	6	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Compassion Camp 3:00 PM Memorial Service 
8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM UMW 	9	10	11	12	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Compassion Camp 
15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM UMM 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	16	17	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Senior Circle 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Compassion Camp 
22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	23	24	25	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 	27	28
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	30	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM The Gathering Place 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 	2	3	4

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BE LOVED...BE KIND...Compassion Camp...BE YOU

Compassion Camp will run for 5 Saturdays. Each week a different Bible Story where we learn about the compassion of Christ. There will still be songs, games, physical activities that go along with the Bible story of the week, but this VBS will be like none we ever did...filled with compassion!!!!!!

ONE July 24
At the Table
Luke 15:11-32

TWO July 31
To the Neighbor
Mark 2:1-12

THREE Aug 7
For Myself
Mark 12:28-31

FOUR Aug 14
Along the Way
Ruth 1:1-22

FIVE Aug 21
With the World
Leviticus 25

